MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 FEBRUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — Iran's Revolution Guards fired another surface-to-surface missile at the heart of Baghdad 5 February, Tehran radio announced. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA said the attack caused casualties and he warned the Iranians that Iraq will strike at "all the means which enable them to commit evil and criminal actions." Iraqi warplanes launched further attacks on Iranian cities the same day, and an Iranian communique cited by IRNA spoke of "scores" of civilian casualties. The targets included Qom, Tabriz, Dezful, and Bushehr, according to statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

As for the battlefront near Basra, an Iranian military spokesman told IRNA that Iranian forces continue to hold the 150 sq km area captured in the course of the Karbala' 5 offensive, adding that they are awaiting orders for further advances. A Tehran radio commentary maintained that Iraq has gained nothing in recent attempts to counterattack.

Khomeyni Message — Tehran radio broadcast a revolution day message to the Iranian nation from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, read by his son Ahmad during a 5 February memorial service at the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. The message expressed the sympathy of "your old father" to those who have lost relatives and property in the war, urging everyone to show "patience and steadfastness." However, Khomeyni stressed that Iran's "martyrs" are "sitting on high in heaven," where "they see how their drops of blood have joined to create a massive flood" and "a storm which is shaking the foundations of the palaces of oppression and tyranny." Khomeyni congratulated the Karbala' 5 combatants on creating "epics" that have aroused the "amazement and astonishment" of the world, and he urged "all zealous young people" to "rush to the fronts." He contended that the entire nation is behind the war effort "except for a limited number of mercenary, spying hypocrites and other lackeys of world arrogance."

Turkish Paper on Intervention — A 3 February article by the Istanbul paper *Milliyet* discussed the possibility of Turkish intervention in Iraq in the event of an Iranian victory, asserting that "this question has been placed on Turkey's agenda by our Western allies, the United States in particular." The writer said this indicates that the United States would favor such a Turkish move if necessary and it sends a message to Iran to the effect that the latter could be confronted by Turkey in the event of a victory over Iraq. However, the Turkish armed forces have considered the implications of intervening in the Kirkuk region and have concluded that intervention would be an "adventure" that might immerse Turkey in the Middle East "quagmire." *Milliyet* added that Turkish military circles categorically oppose the use of Turkey by the United States in any possible attack on Iran and they believe Turkey must stay out of current conflicts in the region.

Lebanon

A "senior party official" cited by Beirut radio denied the FRG paper *Bild*'s report that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite was seriously wounded during an attempt to escape from his captors. However, the official also denied a report that Waite was recently seen walking near Beirut International Airport. Voice of Lebanon radio cited information that Waite is being detained in southern Beirut at the house of 'Imad Mughanniyah, a Hizballah activist who has been associated with various acts of terrorism. Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's "spiritual leader," accused Waite of having been party to a U.S. "propaganda mission," according to DPA.

In another development, Soviet official Karen Brutents told the UAE paper *Al-Khalij* that the USSR will "react firmly" to any U.S. military intervention to free its hostages in Lebanon, AFP reported. Brutents, the deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's Foreign Relations Department, stated in an *Al-Safir* interview cited by Beirut radio that the U.S. build-up in the Mediterranean is a "provocation," and he warned that any U.S. military "adventure" will have "negative" consequences for U.S. interests and the international atmosphere.

Three IDF soldiers were wounded and one South Lebanese Army (SLA) man was killed in clashes with "terrorists" in Israel's security zone 6 February, IDF radio reported. Five terrorists were killed and their attack on an SLA position was repulsed.

Israel

Shamir on Syria — Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held a political briefing in which he asserted that Syria is turning away from Iran and is now willing to identify Iran as a terrorist state. Shamir said the weakening of Syria's friendship with Iran is primarily due to pressure from its financial backer, Saudi Arabia, though Syria has additional reasons to dissociate itself from a country whose terrorist nature is increasingly recognized in the west.

Vanunu — The Jerusalem District Court rejected Mordekhay Vanunu's appeals for changes in his prison conditions, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that Vanunu has stopped his hunger strike.

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AFP: Guerrillas Claim Bomb Blast in Jalalabad
NC051841 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 5 (AFP) — A powerful car bomb exploded in the crowded downtown of people and the crowded downtown section of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, killing dozens of people and destroying as many as 50 shops, a pro-rebel news agency reported Thursday.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said the blast Wednesday also ripped through a cinema and a telecommunications centre, and shattered windows over a wide area in the Afghan garrison city.

The agency quoted travellers reaching Pakistan as saying that more than 30 bodies had been retrieved from the debris, but the death toll was feared to be much higher.

The Hezb-e Eslami, a Moslem guerrilla group fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, claimed responsibility for the blast in a telephone call to *Agence France-Presse*.

Meanwhile, several guerrilla organizations sent reinforcements Thursday to their bases in Paktia Province, close to Pakistan's northern frontier, where mujahidin forces were battling against a fierce Soviet-Afghan onslaught, rebel sources said.

They said that Kabul's first major offensive since it announced a unilateral ceasefire two weeks ago was launched on guerrilla positions around Khowst garrison on Monday.

The rebels said that fighting had spreading to several more areas. They also reported that guerrillas had shot down a Soviet MiG-21 aircraft southeast of Khowst.

Several guerrilla sources said some 12,000 Afghans backed by 2,000 Soviet soldiers were engaged in a drive to capture guerrilla routes to the central and northern Afghan provinces.

The rebels reported heavy bombardment of their bases Bari, Lazhah, Zhawar, Nughalgai and Manu Kandau.

They said two mujahidin were killed.

Gandhi Satisfied With Border Talks Outcome

BK051425 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that there is no hitch in the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab if it agrees to hand over a portion of land to Haryana in lieu of it. He said the transfer could be effected tomorrow but the problem is that Punjab is not agreeing to give the requisite chunk of land to Haryana. He was answering questions from the members of the Commonwealth Journalists Association who met him at his residence in New Delhi this morning.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on de-escalation of tension on the border. Answering another question, the prime minister said that Pakistan is a strategic ally of the United States and that did pose problems. India has offered a treaty of peace and friendship and Pakistan a no-war pact. The only difference is that India has suggested that there should be no foreign bases on the soil of other countries. Mr Gandhi pointed out that Pakistan is not agreeable to this which means that it wants to keep the door open. He said that India feels that any major foreign power base on the subcontinent will destabilize the whole of it.

About the situation on the Indo-Pakistan border, Mr Gandhi said it had become tense when Pakistan moved two of its attack divisions [words indistinct] in Punjab. Now that Pakistan agreed to withdraw one, India has no [passage indistinct].

Referring to the Africa Fund summit, the prime minister disclosed that it had identified projects worth $600 million. Mr Gandhi said the purpose of the fund is very clear and it is to strengthen the economy of the Frontline States.

On SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], he said it is working very well and all efforts are being made to strengthen the foundation of the organization.

Further Reportage on Recent Punjab Events

Gandhi Reviews Developments

BK051641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today kept himself abreast of the latest situation in Punjab. The cabinet group of Punjab had a separate session on the situation in the state. The group comprises the human resources development minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; and the communications minister, Mr Arjun Singh.

The Punjab chief minister and the ruling Akali Dal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that his party continues to exist.

At a news conference in Chandigarh this evening, Mr Barnala categorically affirmed that the Longowal Akali Dal and the Akali government headed by him stand. He said the decision of the Sikh head priests in announcing formation of a new united Akali Dal is one-sided. Sincere efforts have not been made to forge unity in the Akali Dal. Mr Barnala said a 7-member subcommittee of the ruling Akali Dal was sent to Amritsar today to hold discussions with the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief, Professor Darshan Singh, regarding his call for party unity. He said members of the subcommittee were threatened with physical harm if they enter the Golden Temple complex. Mr Barnala alleged that the atmosphere inside the complex is beyond the control of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee and the Akal Takht chief. He said some other forces are in control of the complex, who, he alleged, are also influencing the judgment of the high priests.

Meanwhile, the chief minister has recommended the acceptance of the resignation of the minister of state for health and family welfare, Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhillon.

Two Akali Dal factions — the Badal Akali Dal and the United Akali Dal — have merged to form a new united Akali Dal. The five Sikh head priests told a news conference in Amritsar today that the main objective of the new party would be to protect the political, economic, territorial and linguistic interests of Punjab as mentioned in the Anandpur Saheb resolution. Mr Smrianjit Singh Man, a dismissed Indian Police Service officer, presently detained under the National Security Act, will be the president of the party. A 5-member presidium of the party includes Mr Prakash Singh Badal, Mr Joginder Singh and Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi. The high priests said the new party will oppose the creation of a security belt on the Punjab border. The 11-point program of the new party also calls for the release of Jodhpur [jail] detenues, rehabilitation of army deserters, and giving Amritsar the status of a holy city.

Home Minister Voices Concern

BK051305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] The home minister has expressed the serious concern of the government over the latest developments in Punjab arising out of the interference of religious priests in political matters. Mr Buta Singh was responding to points made by members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. The minister said he has conveyed the center's views to the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala.

Meanwhile, the state minister for health and family welfare, Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhillon, has resigned. In a letter to the chief minister, he said he has resigned following differences over the nonacceptance of the directive issued by the five Sikh head priests.

The Akali Dal — Master Tara Singh group — has rejected the directive by the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief, Professor Darshan Singh, for dissolution of all factions of the Akali Dal. A resolution adopted by the party in New Delhi today said the directive will go against the interest of a large number of Sikhs living outside Punjab.

Barnala Calls Akali Dal Meeting

BK051643 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1605 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Some more news which we have just received from UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] saying that the ruling Akali Dal chief and the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has summoned an emergency meeting of the party's working committee in Chandigarh tomorrow.

Talks Begin With USSR on Agricultural Aid

BK041628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union began talks in New Delhi today for finalizing a long-term cooperation program in agriculture till 2000 A.D. The discussions are being held under the protocol of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

After the inaugural session, the two teams headed by the agriculture secretary, Mr Srinivasan Shastry, and the vice chairman of the USSR's Agroprom, Mr Y.N. Balandin, agreed to set up three working groups. These are on crops and crop research, animal husbandry and dairy development, and economic cooperation in agriculture. Earlier, the Soviet delegation called on the agriculture minister, Mr Dhillon.

4 Sri Lankan Tamil Militants Arrested in Madras

BK051615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Four Sri Lankan Tamil militants have been arrested in connection with last night's firing incident at (Sabaraya Nagar) in west Madras. They belong to one faction of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam. Disclosing this to newsmen in Madras today, the city police commissioner, Mr Devaram, said some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

President States National Defense 'in Safe Hands'
BK051541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reassured the nation that the country's defense is in safe hands and that the Armed Forces and their leaders are fully aware of their duties. While laying the foundation stone of a paper mill near Kamalia today, the president said the elected government has been maintaining a very good balance between development activities and the defense of the country. For an ideological country like Pakistan, self-reliance and a strong defense are highly essential, he added.

The president said the nation has acted with patience, determination, and courage in face of developments on the border. India and Pakistan have reached an agreement which is a proof of the wisdom of the prime ministers of the two countries. The problem has been peacefully resolved with the signing of this agreement. The president stressed the need for maintaining a balance between industry, agriculture, and development, and for establishing agro-based industries. [passage omitted]

Comments on Border Agreement
BK051633 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan has always pursued a policy of peace and good relations with its neighbors, and the improvement on the eastern and western fronts clearly prove the success of the policy based on principles. Addressing a gathering at chak [plot] No 333 JD in District Tobatek Singh, he said following an agreement between India and Pakistan the tension will be eased. The credit for the agreement goes to the prime ministers of India and Pakistan. He complimented the leader and the members of the delegation which has gone to New Delhi for talks to de-escalate the tension on the borders of the two countries.

On the western front, the president said there is a headway for solution of the Afghan issue. Pakistan welcomes peace initiatives from the Soviet Union in this respect. The foreign minister has gone to Moscow for talks in an effort to resolve the Afghan issue.

About the Islamization process launched by the government, he said gradual process for enforcement of Islamic system is being followed, but this cannot be successful without the active cooperation of the people. He called upon the people to work for enforcement of complete Islamic system in the country which was created in the name of Islam. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Border Agreement With India
BK051720 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 5 Feb 87

[M.H. Askari commentary]

[Text] After weeks of uncertainty and mounting tension, Pakistan and India have agreed on the modalities of a sector-by-sector approach to the pullout of the troops deployed along the borders. The tension had begun to deepen last month when India's minister of state for external affairs in a meeting with the Pakistan ambassador in New Delhi called upon Pakistan to withdraw its forces to their peace-time positions without offering a reciprocal withdrawal by the Indian forces. Pakistan did not naturally agree to the unilateral withdrawal and instead suggested that the objective of reducing tension could be achieved by sitting across the table. Consequently, understanding to this effect was reached between the two neighbors after 5 days of talks at foreign secretaries level in New Delhi.

According to the memorandum, all offensive and defensive force on both sides of the border along the Ravi-Chenab corridor will withdraw to their peace-time locations in the first stage within 15 days of its signing. Withdrawal of troops from other sectors will follow the next round of bilateral talks scheduled to be held in Islamabad later this month. However, without doubt any agreement is as good as the will to implement it. So far as Pakistan is concerned, it has every intention to implement the decisions reached during the New Delhi talks.

A process of de-escalation has been set into motion. The decisions arrived at at the New Delhi talks demand a commitment by both sides not to launch an attack against one another. The agreement provides for step-by-step de-escalation and withdrawal. The first step has been taken and Pakistan is quite confident that talks for the remaining sectors will also have the same positive results.

The outcome of the New Delhi talks is indeed the first step toward achieving an overall de-escalation. In the first instance, de-escalation of tension from Akhnur to Madhopur between Chenab and Ravi Rivers has been taken up where troops movements had created anxiety among the people. The sectors from Madhopur to Rann of Kutch will be taken up in the next round.

The prime minister the other day reiterated Pakistan's resolve to defend every inch of its territory. He declared: We want peace and would continue to work for it; but if we are attacked, we will defend our country to the last man. The prime minister also had a telephonic conversation with Mr Rajiv Gandhi on the 27th of last month to discuss the border situation and ways and means to defuse the tension. Mr Rajiv Gandhi also conveyed to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, while he was attending the Islamic summit in Kuwait, through the Egyptian president that India was totally opposed to the military buildup on the border. Peace but no compromise on principles have in fact been the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Commentary Previews Moscow Talks on Afghan Issue
BK050943 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Hussain Haqqani commentary]

[Text] The United Nations mediator on the Afghan question, Mr Diego Cordovez, will visit Moscow beginning next Monday to continue consultations for a political settlement of the 7-year-old conflict. Mr Cordovez's visit will follow discussions between Soviet officials and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada

Yaqub Khan who is visiting Moscow from Friday. The Kabul regime's foreign minister, Mr Ali Keshtmand, will also be in Moscow around the time of the Cordovez visit.

This round of rather intense diplomacy forms part of the ongoing consultations between interested parties in search of a peaceful settlement of the Afghan question. The focus of the talks in Moscow will naturally be to determine an acceptable timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Afghan problem was caused by the intervention of foreign troops and it is unlikely to end peacefully until these troops are withdrawn. In fact, the timeframe for withdrawal of foreign troops is the only outstanding issue in the UN-sponsored Geneva talks which are now scheduled to resume on 25 February. If progress is made on this question during consultations between Soviet officials and their visitors over the next few days, the next round of Geneva talks could mark the successful culmination of these consultations.

The last 2 months have witnessed revived optimism about a political solution in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has given several indications of its willingness to negotiate a settlement acceptable to all interested parties. Pakistan, in particular, has found the recent Soviet pronouncements as positive indicators of a will to resolve the Afghan question. But the Soviets have now to translate these pronouncements into concrete proposals for negotiation. More specifically, an acceptable timeframe for withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan has to be laid on the table. This withdrawal would restore Afghanistan's sovereignty and its nonaligned Islamic status and would enable the Afghans to resolve their domestic political issues by themselves.

The end to foreign military intervention is an essential prerequisite for the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. While Pakistan can discuss the international issue of foreign military presence in Afghanistan, it cannot negotiate on behalf of the refugees on modalities for their repatriation with peace and honor. That is why the bilateral consultations preceding the Geneva talks have a wider canvas and their success is crucial to the success of the peace process.

If the talks in Moscow over these few days prove productive and the basis of agreement on withdrawal of foreign troops is laid, there would be hope for the end of the Afghan people's agony. Pakistan, backed by international public opinion, wants an early political settlement in Afghanistan.

If the Soviet Union fulfills the expectations raised by its recent positive signals, the Afghan problem could be resolved in accordance with internationally acknowledged principles.

SRI LANKA

'Text' of Jayewardene's National Day Address

BK031455 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1018 GMT 3 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item — "Full text" of 4 February National Day message by Sri Lankan President Junius Richard Jayewardene]

[Text] It gives me great pleasure to write these few lines on the occasion of the 39th year when Sri Lanka became free once again.

Each year of our past independence period adds a new year to our modern history which our own people freely made. No one else made it for us — no foreign or colonial power nor even a local dictator because our independence and our democratic system were one and the same achievement. They blossomed together.

Today we complete 39 years of this history. If we have not done well for ourselves in the period or, if in spite of shortcomings, we have achieved significant progress, the blame or praise is a harvest we sowed for and will reap.

During the ten years this government has been in office the people of this country built large men-made [as received] lakes, Victoria, Randenigala, Maduru Oya, Kotmale and others on the Mahaweli River and the equally large Lunugamvehera and Inginimitiya.

The Samanalawewa project, the Nilwala Ganga scheme, the Gin Ganga scheme, the proposed Kalu Ganga scheme, when completed, will harness [words indistinct] large rivers of Sri Lanka. These achievements can only be paralleled by some of the peaceful achievements of the great royal tank builders of ancient times.

All this has been achieved while over 14,000 village tanks were restored in the many villages of Sri Lanka. On a day like this we must also remember the great achievements under the urban and rural housing projects and in developing human resources such as the free school books scheme, the Mahapola students scholarship, and in many other fields.

These achievements and many others were completed amidst a hostile international environment where most countries face an acute and growing debt problem the world over, and a new enemy, that of separatist terrorism threatening this land of ours as well as many other countries in the world. Much has been done by all of us in less than a decade. Though all this is worthy of just pride and will be remembered by posterity, very much more remains to be done.

To know how we have performed, we need to recall that our independence in 1948, also our democratic system, in fact, established mainly the formal, legal, and institutional foundations of a state and of a democratic system. In a country like ours, comprised of many communities and social classes with sharp gaps between them, this meant that one of the cardinal tests of the progress we have made would be the extent to which our capacity, as a free people to make our own history has contributed to change the independent state. It is not the threat to the Sri Lankan state but the vitality of the Sri Lankan state over threats to it, that is the most important evidence and lesson of these years.

The reason for the vitality should not be lost sight of. It is that our effort to maintain the integrity of the Sri Lankan state is also inextricably part of our effort to expand and deepen the foundation of our democratic order. Therein lies the certitude that our state will become a national state and the different communities and classes that comprise it part of a democratic national society.

Indeed, we can look forward to the new year of our independence with growing awareness that together the foundations of our state and our democratic system are being steadily stabilised and reinforced.

As we look to the approaching 4th decade of our independence I believe we have reason for faith in the capacity of our people to found a modern history that will finally make Sri Lanka one of the great progressive nations of the world.

I am sure that all the peace loving people of Sri Lanka will show the same courage, devotion to and capacity for hard work necessary to combat successfully the twin hostile elements mentioned above.

It is to these tasks that we have to rededicate oursevles this day.

'Terrorists' Kill 8, Wound 15 in Village Attack

BK041152 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0822 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Colombo, Feb 04 (LANKA PUWATH) — A gang of separatist terrorists attacked the village of Manthottam, off Dambana in eastern Sri Lanka early this morning (Sri Lankan National Day) and brutally murdered eight civilians and wounded 15 others. The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that the terrorists fled soon after the incident.

Meanwhile, at Jayanohipura, Batticaloa, also in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, government troops captured three terrorists. One of them belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) while the other two were members of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE).

At Kiran, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday, LTTE terrorists robbed Sellappah Vallathambi, principal, Vallachchenai Maha Vidyalaya (College) of his motor cycle 90 SRI 544 and his video deck.

Official Assails Tamil 'Disinformation' Campaign

BK051407 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1334 GMT 5 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 05 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in India has nailed certain vile cannards and set

the record straight about certain happenings in Sri Lanka recently. A press release issued by the Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi on 3rd February, 1987 states that during the past few days, the Indian newspapers gave prominence to agency and other reports emanating from Colombo and Madras that the Sri Lanka Security Forces in the Eastern Province had committed large scale atrocities against innocent civilians in the area. Briefly, these reports said:

"200 innocent civilians have been killed by Security Forces in a matter of days at a place called Kokkadicholai in the Batticaloa District.

"On 31st January, police commandos pulled out 15 passengers from a bus and shot them dead at a place called Pillaiyaridi.

"That 34 employees of a fish farm called Serendib were lined up and shot by commandos."

The High Commission wishes to state that these reports are highly exaggerated accounts of certain incidents that have taken place in the Batticaloa District.

Security Forces have launched an operation on 28th January against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists who have recently established a strong-hold around Kokkadicholai and had directed their terrorist activities against armed forces and civilians in the area. The operation has now been successfully completed in the course of which 14 security personnel and 21 terrorists have been killed. It is likely that some civilians have been killed in the cross fire and this is often unavoidable.

There is no truth whatsoever in the claims made by Sri Lankan Tamil groups based in Madras that 200 civilians have been killed. There is also no truth in the alleged incident at Pillaiyaridi and the report about alleged killings at a fish farm is being investigated. It has been the usual pattern of the Eelamist disinformation campaign that whenever successful security operations are carried out resulting in the death of terrorists, the casualty figures are multiplied and claimed as innocent civilians indiscriminately killed by the Security Forces.

With a view to countering these false reports which have made headlines in the foreign media, the Government of Sri Lanka had flown a group of journalists and photographers to the area during the weekend to see the actual situation for themselves. The journalists have reported that after the successful completion of security operations, the situation in the area is fast returning to normal and arrangements have been made by government authorities to ensure proper distribution of foodstuffs and medicine to the people of the area.

The people there have given accounts of hardships suffered by them such as kidnappings, extortion of money and lamp-post killings etc. at the hands of the terrorists and they were relieved that the Security Forces had been able to establish their authority in the area.

The Sri Lanka High Commission issued a press release yesterday (4th February, 1987), on reports of alleged large scale atrocities against innocent civilians in the Eastern Province. The high commission had stated that in regard to the alleged incident in a fish farm called Serendib, an investigation was in progress.

It may be recalled that local newspapers recently carried an agency report that employees of a fish farm at Manmunai in Batticaloa District have been killed by Security Forces. One of the reports said that all 34 employees of the farm were lined up and shot by the Security Forces and another report said that 22 exmployees were shot dead.

Investigations carried out by the Government of Sri Lanka into this alleged incident have now revealed that the reports are totally distorted and did not give a correct picture. The Serendib Sea Food Company at Manmunai was a joint venture project which had been established with financial and technical asistance from the Government of Sri Lanka. 85 labourers and 40 officers were on its pay-roll. There is definite proof now that recently certain LTTE members had been recruited by the company. It is believed this was done through fear of terrorists or to prevent the robbing of its prawn catches by the terrorists.

During the operations carried out by the Security Forces in Kokkadicholai area to flush out terrorists, fourteen persons of whom eleven were found to be terrorists were killed in encounters with the Security Forces within the farm premises. It was later discovered that the terrorists had assembled two big claymore landmines and four sand bunkers within the farm premises.

The government has decided to frame charges against Mr Bruce Cyer, the foreign manager of the farm, for his failure to report the murder of a security guard of his company by terrorists a few days before the alleged incident and for repeatedly issuing false statements that he was "an eye witness" to the killing of his employees. It is now established that he was in fact out of station during the period when the alleged incident is supposed to have taken place.

The results of these investigations as given above, have proved that the alleged killings at the fish farm are yet another instance of the disinformation campaign conducted by the Sri Lanka Tamil groups from Madras, which have unfortunately been the source of some adverse reports in the local newspapers.

Despite these developments concerning the fish farm, the government has assured all such joint ventures with foreign participation in Sri Lanka will continue to receive government assistance provided their Colombo based principals exercise control over the recruitment of employees to prevent any terrorist infiltrations of this nature.

Government To Release Canadian Spy Suspect
LD052021 Montreal International Service in English 2000 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Iran says it either has freed or will soon free a Canadian who has been a prisoner in Iran for 2 months. A diplomat at the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa says Iran decided to free Philip Engs as a gesture of goodwill toward Canada, but he insisted that Mr Engs was arrested for spying. The Canadian is an engineer who works for a multinational firm. Mr Engs' family denies that he is a spy.

Khomeyni Revolution Day Message Delivered in Tehran
LD051408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1215 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni message marking Islamic Revolution Day and the Day of Martyrdom, read by his son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, at a memorial service at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery on 5 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Blessed be this day. What a blessing it is for the great nation of Iran, the followers of the Great Prophet, his great eminence Mohammad, son of Mustafa — may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his scion — to have such a brave men who have chosen the path of martyrdom. These men have chosen to end life in this passing world and lower life to go to the permanent, safe world of the kingdom of heaven. They, in search of life, reached the source of creation; and in this divine spring they have quenched their thirst by visiting the Almighty. It is for them a well-deserved glory.

Alas, how ignorant are those in love with mundane matters and those not aware of divine matters, who compare the value of martyrdom to earthly prizes and natural phenomena, and seek to explain the logic of martyrdom by epic poetry. Attempting to understand the motive behind martyrdom, they resort to imagination and books of knowledge. This puzzle cannot be solved except through love; and this has become easy for our nation. We are witnessing how these light-feathered birds, in love with martyrdom, are riding on the charger of honor and prestige and have rushed to sacrifice their own blood.

These martyrs, in front of the Almighty God, have been admitted with pride. Sitting on high in heaven, they are now watching the fruits of their devotion and self-sacrifice. They are witnessing how their lofty ambition has brought stability to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and how our revolution, right on the summit of honor and pride, has become standard-bearer guiding future thirsty generations. They see how their drops of blood have joined to create a massive flood and a tumultuous, formidable storm, a storm which is shaking the foundations of the palaces of oppression and tyranny built by the East and the West, and a storm which has put them in the black dress of bereavement as they mourn the loss of their hirelings and agents such as Mohammad Reza Khan, Al-Sadat and Numayri. The East and the West are also mourning their lost prestige and their satanic power and domination.

This is only the beginning of the affair and they have to face many more nightmares. They should prepare themselves for the destruction and death of mercenaries such as Saddam and lackeys such as Israel — especially the usurping Israel.

All these are among the blessings of the dawn of our martyrs, and we are awaiting to witness the sun. We should tell the martyrs: Blessings unto you which have been denied to the people of the world. [Arabic verse]

Blessings unto the dear families of the martyrs, the missing-in-action, the prisoners of war, and the devotees [janbazan], and to the Iranian nation who, through their steadfastness, resilience and heroism have been turned into a solid foundation [Koranic phrase], who are neither frightened by the threats of the superpowers, nor bemoan blockades and shortages, nor turn a hair at the treachery and criminal deeds of the mad, unbridled, and declining Saddam in bombing cities and destroying homes, mosques, hospitals, and schools. They continue their path, as before, which is the path of the beloved Islam, of honor, dignity, and humanity. They prefer an honorable life in a modest dwelling to degradation in palaces, which entails subjugation and servitude to superpowers, and to an imposed peace and compromise.

I am proud to be among you and at your side. I partake in your sorrow and afflications, which are the afflictions of Islam and the Muslims. How strange that when the demonic Aflaqites, who have suffered so many defeats on the battlefronts and who have timidly fled when faced with the lion-hearted forces of Islam, in attempting to compensate for all their weakness and desperation have wickedly resorted to bombing houses, schools, hospitals, and mosques, and to crushing defenseless groups of people, from suckling babes to pupils and students, from patients in hospitals to old men and women.

The beloved Iranian nation, especially the residents of towns that have been subjected to enemy air attacks, have clearly understood that their enemies have chosen the path of their wicked precursors and ancestors, the accursed line of the Ummayids and Yazids [Ummayids: Islamic caliphate which rose against Imam Husayn; Yazid: ruler in whose time Imam Husayn was killed] — may God's curses be upon them all — who have no goal but to eliminate the traces of prophethood and to prove and confirm the flimsy slogan of "Oblivious to traditions and to divine revelation." [Koranic verse referring to the nonbelievers] One cannot expect anything from the followers of Yazid but to violate the borders of our Islamic homeland and to violate the nation which follows the Lord of the Ages, even the house of the family of the Prophet — God's salutation and benediction be upon him and his scion — namely Qom.

At the same time, one does not expect anything from the heroic Muslim Iranian nation but to continue the path of Husayn and Seyneb [Imam Husayn and his sister], and this is the path they have chosen. Of what can a nation -- having the Lord of the Martyrs [Imam Husayn] as its leader -- which regards devotion and self-sacrifice as its weapons, and martyrdom as the cause of

its immortality, be frightened? With whom does such a nation deal except with God?

I wish to say to all the beloved ones who have lost their lives, properties, and their beloved ones in these events and at the battlefronts that, without doubt, you feel the sympathy of this servant, your old father, as I regard the destruction of your houses as the destruction of my own home, and the martyrdom and injury of your beloved ones and children as the martyrdom and injury of my own children. I am with you and I urge you to show patience and steadfastness. I hope that in this great divine test the Iranian nation will go to the help and assistance of the victims with the same spirit of solidarity and fraternity, and with the same attitude they will sympathize with and support one another in all other difficulties. With open arms and with kindness and brotherly love they should try to eliminate their difficulties. They should fight against difficulties alongside the serving government that, with dedication and devotion, is busy day and night rendering assistance and making plans.

My pen and my tongue are unable to describe the great and widespread steadfastness of millions of Muslims who are eager to serve, sacrifice, and be martyred in this country of the Lord of the Ages — may our lives be sacrificed unto him — and to elaborate on the epic deeds, heroism, and mighty exploits of the spiritual children of her holiness Fatimah [the prophet's daughter and Imam 'Ali's wife] — peace be upon her — for all these are due to the blessings of Islam and the members of the holy family, and due to the emulation of the imam of 'Ashura [Imam Husayn].

Our nation has tightened its belt, and all of them, men and women — except for a limited number of mercenary, spying hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and other lackeys of world arrogance — are present in the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood. They try to race each other; and what better race is there in the sight of God than the flood [as heard] victims trying to help those who are at the fronts, and the fighters at the battlefronts presenting all their financial assets to those who have fallen victim to the floods? What transformation is greater than the fact that the fathers, mothers, and wives of our martyrs do not bereave the death of their beloved ones? On the contrary, they regret the fact that they are removed from the martyrs' caravan. How deaf and blind are those who, despite the experience of years of steadfastness and resolution by this heroic nation still trample upon facts and realities, and continue equipping the expiring Saddam and the Aflaqi Party! What they do will only bring them and Saddam closer to their graves, will make our people more battle hardened, and will strengthen their resolve to topple the aggressor.

The superpowers -- beginning with the United States, which is the prime cause of all world corruption, to the USSR and France, which unfortunately have placed the greatest offensive capabilities at Iraq's disposal, whether missiles, bombs, or aircraft -- should know that by continuing these overt and covert acts of support for Saddam they are arousing the anger of a solid, revolutionary nation and a popular, stable Islamic government enjoying countless support from sundry ideological schools, races, and nationalities throughout the world. Our people and the world's nations consider these superpowers and their supporters as partners in crime and treachery. All the powers and superpowers should know that we will remain steadfast to the last person, to the last homestead, to the last drop of blood in promulgating God's world, and that contrary to their desire we will lay the foundations for a "neither East nor West government" in most of the countries of the world. How quickly world arrogance forgets the momentous, historic scene of the popular presence on Jerusalem Day, which, even if repeated scores of times, by the succor of God Almighty, our people would remain the same people and the scenes would remain the same!

We extend heartfelt thanks and immense appreciation to the popular forces, the selfless men of the Mobilization [of the Oppressed], Muhammad Corps troops [shouts of approbation], the defiant and powerful army, the intrepid, heroic [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps troops, the clergy, the wagers of jihad, relief workers, newsmen, law and order forces, the police and gendarmerie, and all those behind the fronts who are doing their best to strengthen and supply the combatants.

Also, by extending many thanks and appreciation to the combatants in the Karbala'-4, Karbala'-6, and particularly those of the Karbala'-5 operations — who have created epics and aroused the amazement and astonishment of the world's peoples by assaulting the most fortified redoubts and obstacles and the most modern weapons, who have heroically fought the cowardly enemy on the battleground, who have captured generals, officers, NCO's and countless troops from the enemy, who are continuing their battles, and who thereby gladden the hearts of the prophets and the messenger of Islam and their peer, the holy hidden imam — I call on all zealous young people and the fruitful segments of the Islamic country to rush to the fronts and join the ranks of the troops of the holy Al-Mahdi — God Almighty hasten his noble advent — and thereby to rob the last breath from the lives of the Saddamists, because the victorious hand of justice is with you. Just as He graciously granted you the blessings of His hidden succor and His special considerations to this day and in all scenes, He will henceforth also remain your friend and companion. He will never leave you alone. I too will pray for you and love you at all times. I wish I could stand at your side in your struggle.

O God Almighty, graciously grant success, blessings, victory, honor, glory in this world and in the next to our nation; to the combatants of the Islamic Army; to responsible officials and commanders who, with their meticulous care, organization, and big-heartedness and concern in seeking the approval of God, are engaged in planning and guiding the affairs of war; to the believing combatants of the ground, air, and naval forces of the armed forces, the Corps, and the Mobilization of the Oppressed warriors, who ensured Islam, the revolution and their Islamic homeland, and who have broken the arms of the aggressors; to the dear clergymen, who have turned the seminaries into schools of divine love and who have thrust their breasts forward as shields in the forefront of the Islamic Army; to the trenchless wagers of jihad who, in the most difficult conditions, have heroically embarked on guarding the sanctity of the combatants, and who, by strengthening their uneasy positions and with their selflessness and sacrifices, have protected the lives of our dear ones in the trenches and defensive positions; to the relief workers and those dear peoples who are leaving their safe homes for the fronts and, side by side with those breaching the lines, are embarking on saving the lives of the injured and wounded or are bearing the

sacred bodies of the martyrs; to the university academicians, students, and specialists from state organs and ministries who in various matters are the friends and helpers of the Islamic Army; to the film-makers and newsmen who, at the forward lines of the fronts, are portraying the matchless epics and the divine work of God's soldiers and are acquainting the Iranian nation and the peoples of the world and future generations with the culture of our sacred defense and the history of the revolution; to all support centers for the front, from the farmers in all corners of the countryside, who give up the fruits of their toil, to the workers and peoples of the towns, districts, and various bazaar and administrative segments and others who are backing and heartening the combatants with their lives, property, words, and actions. [shouts of approval]

O God Almighty, graciously grant an everlasting place next to your saints, to the great martyrs of this nation who have given up their lives for you and to glorify your religion. [shouts of Allah Akbar] Graciously grant glory and recompense to their next of kin, particularly their fathers, mothers, sons, and wives who, to please you, are suffering their beloved one's absence, and are carrying aloft the banner of their battle and surging forward. Graciously teach children to be kind and affectionate to their bereaved mothers. Graciously grant health and a cure to our beloved, victorious, proud, and self-sacrificing troops. Graciously enable missing persons and POW's — these lion-hearted men and women — to safely and victoriously return to their homeland. Graciously assist us in serving this nation and make the nation appreciate the toils of our martyrs. Graciously grant us the sweet taste of your love and grace, and grant us the blessings of the holy Hidden Imam — may our lives be sacrificed to his cause. And graciously save this revolution from the danger of evil and mistakes, and from the rancor of the infidels, hypocrites, and polytheists. [shouts of approval]

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni
[Date] 5 February 1987
[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD061326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Today on the 6th day of the blessed Ten Days of Dawn, the religious-political Friday prayers venues witnessed the observance of this Muhannadan rite, held with a more extensive and remarkable attendance by the people, while the faithful, committed worshippers, chanting the slogan "War, war till victory," emphasized the continuation of the battle until the Iraqi aggressor regime is toppled.

Friday prayer ceremonies were held at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares and Tehran's revolutionary citizens observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his Friday prayers sermons, Tehran's Friday imam first embarked on an analysis of the material and spiritual achiemements of Iran's Islamic revolution during the 8 years of its victory and, while expressing felicitations for the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and also for the resistance displayed by the Iranian people during these 8 years of the imposed war, said: Our revolution has three important characteristics that have never existed in any modern revolution either singly or together. These three characteristics are as follows: the emanation of the Islamic revolution from religion and sect; not relying on any foreign power, whether left or right; and finally, not leaning toward the arrogant powers of East or West.

Referring to the accomplishments of the Islamic revolution in various fields, the president of the republic said: The advances made by the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in caring for the countryside, caring for the education and training, caring for the meek, smashing the plutocrats and oppressors, reconstructing society from within, and nurturing the spirit of courage, daring, and self-help among the people vis-a-vis the superpowers.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, continuing his speech, said: The victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran smashed the idols of ethnic groups, racism, a divided world, and also the idol of the lack of religious faith, particularly in the political arena, on which colonialism had spent many years working and investing. Today, the Islamic revolution, after 8 years, has planted roots in the hearts of our country's people and the deprived and oppressed nations of the world, and is daily becoming even more firmly established in the very core of nations and societies.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and said: If the U.S. leaders imagine that by their presence in the Persian Gulf they can intimidate the revolutionary, resistant Iranian nation, they are making a big mistake, because in unison with our leader we raise our voices in saying: The United States can do nothing!

Tehran's Friday imam added: We know that such moves are only meant to conceal the gross defeat suffered by the Iraqi regime during the Karbala'-5 offensive and are intended to reassure regional governments.

Saying that the presence of U.S. and other powers' fleets in the Persian Gulf would make the region even more insecure, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: For our nation, and most certainly for any independent government and nation in the region, the presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf is unacceptable. We deem their presence as a form of hostile aggression against the independence of the nations in this region.

Addressing U.S. leaders, the president of the republic emphasized: If any provocation is carried out by the United States in this region against the interests of our nation, let them know that they would thereby make our nation more hostile, more intractable, and more irreconcilable toward them. Our nation cares intensely for their independence, dignity, and revolution. Behind this care also lies a powerful movement, and any provocation by the United States or by any other superpower cannot remain a matter of indifference to our nation.

Referring to the barbarous bombings carried out by the Iraqi regime against our population centers, hospitals, and schools, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: Saddam's crimes, following his defeat at the fronts, are unprecedented not only in this war, but also in World Wars I and II. Even more astonishing than Saddam's crimes is the silence of governments ostensibly unattached to the colonialist powers. The world's peoples should witness the silence of such international forums as the United Nations, Amnesty International, human rights organizations, and the Red Cross, and should know them better!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, in connection with the losses suffered by the Iraqi regime during the Karbala'-5 offensive, said: During this offensive the enemy brought 130 brigades to the battlefields, 70 of which were destroyed by more than 80 percent and the rest between 20-50 percent. During these operations the enemy, apart from suffering 20,000 killed and 80,000 wounded, lost 2,500 men as POW's; while Islam's combatants destroyed 75 aircraft and 10 helicopters, 600 tanks, a great quantity of enemy war materiel and equipment, and also captured intact 200 tanks. Despite the propaganda blackmail engaged in by the agents of arrogance during the Karbala'-5 offensive, some 150 square kilometres of Iranian and Iraqi territory were liberated.

In conclusion, while paying tribute to the resistance of the patient Iranian people, particularly those injured during the barbarous bombings by the Iraqi regime, the president of the republic said: During this Ten Days of Dawn, the Iranian people should once again demonstrate their resistance and should administer two crushing rebuffs to Saddam and his supporters by enlisting in the Holy Al-Mahdi — may God Almighty hasten his noble advent — Corps leaving for the fronts from Tehran and other cities, and also by participating in the 11 February march to be held throughout the country.

WIH Terms Karbala'-5 'Catastrophe' for Iraq

LD051738 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — Iran's Islamic combatants continue to hold a 150 sq. km area which they liberated in the course of Karbala'-5 operations launched Jan. 9, said a spokesman for the War Information HQS. here Thursday. He added that the Iranian forces are awaiting orders for further advances to break through more Iraqi fortifications.

The WIH spokesman told IRNA that the Islamic forces of Iran have turned, with minor modifications, the "invincible" enemy defence lines west of the Jasim River to "safe trenches" for themselves. He said that the Iranian combatants are vigilantly stationed in the positions they have taken over and are preparing for "future advances".

At the same time, the spokesman stressed, Iran's Islamic Army is maintaining its full control over the Fish canal and its connecting routes and has thus deprived the enemy from any military movements.

The spokesman described the blows inflicted on Iraq's war machine as "definitely irreparable." He said the puppet regime in Baghdad, despite "the huge financial, logistic, and military support extended to it by the reactionaries of the region as well as international oppressors and plunderers", will never be able to make for its losses.

Furthermore, he asked, how is the Baghdad regime going to hide the 50,000 odd troop casualties — according to the most conservative estimate — from the Iraqi people?

He went on to say that the low morale of the Iraqi Army which was confirmed by neutral experts in the world even before Iran's operation Karbala'-5, was so badly disintegrated in the operations that only the term "catastrophe" could define it. This, he said, has become one of the "most explicit realities of the war" with regard to Karbala'-5 operations, in all commentaries and analyses, even by those who want the war to end "with no victor."

The WIH spokesman also said that the Islamic combatants of Iran, after crossing the bridges of the Jasim River on the Shalamcheh-Basra road have consolidated defence barriers and are now stationed two kms west of these bridges. "This point is only 10 kms from Basra," he said.

In the southern section of the operational theater, he said, the Iranian combatants, after liberating the islands of Bawarian, Fayyad and Umm al-Tovail, are now atationed 500 meters from Abol-Khasib in the suburbs of Basra.

The spokesman said if there were the slightest doubts on any declared Iranian war victories in the Karbala'-5 thrust, the Islamic Republic is once again ready to despatch foreign and domestic reporters to the region and leave the judgement to them. This time, of course, he said, the journalists would have the chance to inspect new liberated areas by Iran.

On the recent extensive propaganda by the Baghdad regime as well as the reactionary and colonialist loudspeakers on Karbala'-5 operations, he said the Iraqi regime was always "victorious on the antenna." It resorted to the same massive propaganda in every major Iranian victory, like liberation of Khorramshahr, and the capture of Al-Faw.

But eventually, when its desperate efforts failed and it was forced to confess, the Ba'thist rulers said they had made a "voluntary and tactical withdrawal" from Khorramshahr, and justified their defeat in Al-Faw by terming it a piece of "unimportant" land. "We are sure that similar claims will be repeated regarding Iran's Karbala"-5 achievements by Baghdad," he said.

The spokesman said in conclusion that it was not important if American satellites underestimated the liberated area to one tenth of its real scale or even less than that. It is also not important if regional reactionaries have turned their mass media to means for "relaying" the false claims of the Baghdad regime.

"What is important," he said, "is that the claims of the defeated regime in Baghdad are only "victories over the antenna' but we are relating the realities." He stressed that "our victories are on the ground and near Basra."

He said Iran was speaking about the liberation of an area as wide as 150 sq. kms, about the destruction of 600 enemy tanks and personnel carriers, about the capture of over 2,500 soldiers, NCO's, and officers, including two brigadier generals and that "we are in full control of the Fish Lake and its connecting routes." These, he said, did not include Iranian gains in the Fish Lake region, the Jasim River, and Shalamcheh-Basra road.

The WIH spokesman concluded by reiterating that "if there is still the slightest doubts regarding Iranian victories in Karbala'-5 operational theater, another inspection of the area will certainly clear the mist."

Polish Foreign Minister, Velayati Hold Talks

LD052051 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA — Visiting Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati held their second round of talks, here Thursday.

The Polish official expressed deep concern of his country on the arms race, especially the continuation of nuclear tests as well as the star war. Orzechowski also criticised U.S. policies in creating tension throughout the world, particularly the Middle East, terming it as a blatant U.S. interference in domestic affairs of other countries.

The Polish foreign minister announced his country's willingness to further bilateral relations and cooperate with the Islamic Republic on international issues.

In response, the Iranian foreign minister said that Iran calls for disarmament and effective banning of atomic and chemical weapons. The Islamic Republic, Velayati added, has been victimized by the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

Velayati also declared Iran's backing for struggles of Palestinian and Lebanese people. The Islamic Republic considers the Jerusalem occupying regime as an illegitimate entity, and Palestine must be returned to its true owners, he said. "Iran condemns any sort of compromising attitudes concerning the Palestinian issue," added Velayati.

The Iranian foreign minister also condemned the barbaric Iraqi crimes and reiterated Iran's firm determination to punish the aggressor and regain its legitimate rights.

Reportage on Combat Operations, Karbala' 5, 6

Iraqi Sukhoy-22 Downed

LD051421 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 5, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Thursday afternoon bringing to 75 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the Karbala'-5 operations January 9.

The plane, a Sukhoy-22, was hit by Iranian anti-aircraft fire and crashed inside Iraqi territory at 11:39 GMT Thursday.

Qom, Dezful Residential Areas Bombed

LD051730 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA — A number of civilians were martyred and wounded in the latest Iraqi air raids on the Iranian cities of Shush Tar, Dezful, in Khuzestan Province, and the Holy City of Qom, in Central Province, on Thursday. Several houses were damaged in the air attacks.

Missile Fired at Baghdad Target

LD051733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] O Hezbollah ummah! O martyr-nurturing people! In reply to the wickedness of the Ba'thist criminals in their attacks on the residential areas of our country, the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps's Air Force, fired a surface-to-surface missile at an important military-economic center in the heart of Baghdad at 2000 today.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Air Force's missile unit once again warns the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq that if it continues its aggression, it must expect the ferocious revenge of the combatants of Islam.

Communique No 2,738

LD051803 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in fresh Iraqi air attacks on the Iranian cities of Esfahan, Tabriz, Mianeh and Shushtar on Wednesday and Thursday. said a military communique here Thursday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2738 said that Iranian jet fighters in two separate missions heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Thursday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases.

Some economic and military targets in the Iraqi city of Khanaqin suffered heavy losses when a mid-range surface-to-surface Iranian missile hit them at 13:15 GMT Wednesday.

Iranian long-range artillery fire continued shelling Iraqi industrial and military targets in Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Darassalam, Mamkhalan, Chuman Mostafa, Surian, Qasr, Chuman Walash and Dujaylah inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Exchange of artillery and tank fire continued in the southern fronts Wednesday raging more heavily in Zobeydeh and Nahr-e Anbar as a result of which several Iraqi tanks were destroyed.

Iraqi engineering operations were halted in Sharhani and Pichangizeh by heavy Iranian artillery fire on Wednesday.

Iranian artillery fire halted or minimized movement of Iraqi vehicle columns carrying ammunitions as well as operations of enemy armoured units in Helaleh, Neikhazar, Mandali, Badrah, Sumar, Kani-Sheykh and Qasr-e Shirin on Wednesday.

Two convoys of Iraqi patrols were suppressed and forced to flee while sustaining heavy casualties in Helaleh by Iranian Muslim Forces on Wednesday. In the northwestern fronts, Iranian forces shelled Iraqi supply routes on Wednesday inflicting heavy losses on enemy troops, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Jets Bomb Qom, Tabriz

LD061001 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi planes bombarded residential areas in the cities of Tabriz and Qom Thursday night. A number of innocent people were martyred and wounded in the enemy air raids and some houses were also damaged.

IRGC Shells Umm Qasr Port

LD061021 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA — Economic and military centers in Iraqi port of Umm Qasr came under heavy Iranian artillery fire for 24 hours Thursday. According to the central hqs. of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, the shelling was in retaliation for continued Iraqi attacks on civilian quarters in the Islamic Republic. The IRGC said that oil reservoirs, the jetty and other installations of Umm Qasr port, as well as the base of Iraq's 7th Division Marines sustained heavy damage during the long-range shelling by the IRGC's naval forces. It also said that many Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the operation.

Khanaqin Targets Hit by Missile

LD061035 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA -- Economic-military centers in the Iraqi city of Khanaqin were hit by a surface-to-surface Iranian missile Friday. The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said the missile was fired by the ground forces at 08:00 hours local time (04:30 GMT) Friday morning.